



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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Inquiry: We currently provide sputum inductions upon an order from a physician. However, our organization would like to inquire the following:

Once a physician writes an order for an Acid Fast Bacilli (AFB) culture, the respiratory care practitioners would perform a sputum induction by writing into our current policy and procedure something like "All AFB cultures are to have sputum inductions performed by Respiratory Care Practitioners"? Please advise whether this can be done under our current laws and regulations.

Response: Please refer to section 3702 of the Respiratory Care Practice Act. This section specifically discusses and supports the use of "protocols" and should answer your question completely. We have included a copy of this section for your reference. Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact the Executive Officer of the Respiratory Care Board.

Reference # 2003-C-35